

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

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PROGRAM NBC News on the Hour

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CITY Washington, DC

CIA DID WELL

CPYRGHT

ROBERT GORALSKI: "House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mendel Rivers, and the panel's ranking Republican, Representative William Bates of Massachusetts, both say the CIA did well by providing funds to the nation's largest student organization.

"The Congressmen said they have known for some time about the secret funding of the National Student Association. To them it wasn't a matter of spying, it was the survival of freedom.

"But the leaders of the NSA, meeting in Washington today, decided to leave their hotel conference room, convinced it was electronically bugged.

"An international student organization wants the NSA to drop its affiliation, pending a further inquiry on its financial links with the CIA."